

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 05646 01 OF 02 181757Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-08 AID-05

OPIC-03 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01 /098 W

----- 037809

R 181619Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8259

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 5646

E.O. 1652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC: THE FIRST SESSION

REF: LISBON 5486 (DTG 121258Z AUG 76)

SUMMARY: THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC CONCLUDED ITS FIRST LEGISLATIVE SESSION AUG 13 IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF COOPERATION AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC. THE COMMUNISTS WENT ALONG ON PROCEDURAL MATTERS, BUT WERE MORE DIFFICULT ON MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE. THE ASSEMBLY LARGELY ABANDONED IDEOLOGICAL DEBATES TO FOCUS ON ITS DAILY CALENDAR. IT ESTABLISHED THE MECHANISMS AND PROCEDURES TO MOVE AHEAD, BUT HOW ACTIVE A ROLE THE ASSEMBLY WILL PLAY IN FRAMING POLICY IS STILL UNCERTAIN. END SUMMARY

1. ASSEMBLY DEFINING ITS ROLE: THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 05646 01 OF 02 181757Z

MOVED AWAY FROM THE IDEOLOGICAL DEBATES AND DAILY CONCERN WITH

"WHITHER PORTUGAL" THAT OCCUPIED THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DURING 1975 AND EARLY 1976. ASSEMBLY SHOWS SIGNS THAT IT WILL BE A RESPONSIBLE CRITIC OF THE GOVERNMENT AND EFFECTIVE LEGISLATIVE BODY. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE RADICAL POPULAR DEMOCRATIC UNION'S SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE, THE PARTIES, ON THE SURFACE AT LEAST, ACCEPTED THE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER. THE ASSEMBLY DEVOTED ITSELF ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO THE DAILY CALENDAR. LEAVING ASIDE CONSTANT UDP CACOPHONY, THE ONLY OCCASIONS IN WHICH DEPUTIES DEVOTED SIGNIFICANT ATTENTION TO OUTSIDE BUSINESS WERE THE UNANIMOUS DECISION TO CHALLENGE THE RELEASE OF FORMER SECRET POLICE AND THE COMMUNIST AND UDP PROTESTS OF SPINOLA'S RETURN.

2. COOPERATION ON PROCEDURE: THE FIRST SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC, WHICH RAN FROM JUNE 3 THROUGH AUGUST 13, FEATURED THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT EANES AND THE AUGUST 2-11 DEBATE ON THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. THE ASSEMBLY SET ITS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER BY PASSING AN ELABORATE SET OF RULES, ELECTING OFFICERS, ASSIGNING DEPUTIES TO COMMITTEES, AND APPROVING REGULATIONS ON THE PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF LEGISLATION AND ON DEPUTY RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES. THE SESSION WAS CHARACTERIZED BY SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. EVEN THE COMMUNISTS PROVED COOPERATIVE ON MANY PROCEDURAL MATTERS. THE ASSEMBLY RULES COMMITTEE WAS DOMINATED BY SEVERAL BRIGHT YOUNG LAWYERS INCLUDING ANTONIO ARNAUT OF THE PS, JORGE MIRANDA OF THE PPD, AND VITAL MOREIRA OF THE PCP. THE COMMITTEE REACHED AGREEMENT ON ALL BUT A FEW ISSUES, AND ENDED WITH LAVISH PRAISE FOR ONE ANOTHER. THE FOUR MAJOR PARTIES WORKED OUT A FOUR-THREE-TWO-TWO DIVISION OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS.

3. DEBATE ON GOVERNMENT PROGRAM: WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE UDP, AND OCCASIONALLY THE COMMUNISTS, THE ASSEMBLY DEBATED THE SOARES GOVERNMENT PROGRAM WITH AN AIR OF RESPONSIBLE, MEASURED CRITICISM MIXED WITH PRAISE (REFTEL). THE PCP ACCEPTED THE PROGRAM AS A STARTING POINT, BUT LATER ATTACKED THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPLANATIONS OF HOW THE PROGRAM WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED. PCP LEADER CUNHAL RESORTED TO VEILED THREATS OF WORKER REACTION IN HIS FINAL ADDRESS BUT STOPPED SHORT OF OFFERING A FORMAL REJECTION MOTION, DESPITE SOARES'S CHALLENGE TO DO SO.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 05646 01 OF 02 181757Z

4. AGREEMENT TO HARNESS UDP: THE FOUR PRINCIPAL PARTIES ALSO AGREED TO LIMIT THE RIGHTS OF THE SINGLE UDP DEPUTY BY NOT GIVING HIM STATUS AS A PARLIAMENTARY GROUP. AS A RESULT OF THIS DECISION, THE UDP DEPUTY CANNOT:

- PROPOSE REJECTION OF THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM;
- PROPOSE A MOTION TO CENSURE THE GOVERNMENT; OR
- INITIATE GENERAL POLICY DEBATES.

THE PARTY'S DEBATE TIME WAS ALSO RESTRICTED. DESPITE THESE IMPEDIMENTS, UDP DEPUTY ACACIO BARREIROS ENGAGED IN DAILY DISRUPTIVE TACTICS DESIGNED TO PUBLICIZE THE UDP'S OPPOSITION TO "BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACY."

5. HOT ISSUES: THE MOST KEENLY CONTESTED ISSUES DURING THE ASSEMBLY SESSION TURNED OUT TO BE MOSTLY PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS; THEY INCLUDED:

-- SEATING OF COSTA GOMZS: THE PCP AND UDP WERE OVERRIDDEN IN THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN PRIVILEGED SEATING FOR OUTGOING PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES AT THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT EANES.

-- COMMITTEE ESTABLISHMENT: A CDS PROPOSAL TO CREATE SPECIALIZED COMMITTEES ON EMIGRANTS AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION STIRRED SOCIALIST ACCUSATIONS OF DEMAGOGUERY AND SHARP EXCHANGES ON THE ASSEMBLY FLOOR.

-- DEPUTIES' SALARIES: THE COMMUNISTS AND UDP UNSUCCESSFULLY OPPOSED THE DECISION TO RAISE DEPUTY SALARIES TO 600 DOLLARS PER MONTH PLUS EXPENSES.

-- GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATION: THE GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR BROAD LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY DURING THE ASSEMBLY RECESS FACED DETERMINED COMMUNIST OPPOSITION. THE PS, PPD, AND CDS COMBINED TO OVERCOME HURDLES THROWN UP BY THE PCP.

6. COMMENT: THE EXTENSIVE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM HAS GONE A LONG WAY TOWARD ESTABLISHING GREATER TRUST AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. THIS TRUST WAS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 05646 02 OF 02 190740Z

11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-08 AID-05

OPIC-03 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01 /098 W

----- 045566

R 181619Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8260

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL OPORTO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
USMISSION NATO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 5646

EXEMPLIFIED AUGUST 12 BY PPD AND CDS AGREEMENT TO GRANT RECESS LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY TO THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT. PPD AND CDS LEADERS NO LONGER ARGUE THAT THE LEFT WING MIGHT RUN AWAY WITH THE SOCIALIST PARTY. THEY ACCEPT THE REASONABLENESS, IF NOT ALL THE SPECIFICS, OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMS. IN TURN, THIS GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES HAS MADE THE POSSIBILITY OF A PS RESORT TO THE PCP FOR SUPPORT IN THE ASSEMBLY MORE REMOTE.

7. COMMUNIST COOPERATION ON PROCEDURAL MATTERS IS LESS SIGNIFICANT THAN PCP RESISTANCE ON SUBSTANCE. ON BOTH THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM AND ITS REQUEST FOR LEGISLATIVE AUTHORIZATION, THE PCP DEMONSTRATED THAT IT WAS NOT READY TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT COMPROMISES. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL INDICATIONS OF DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE PARTY ABOUT HOW

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 05646 02 OF 02 190740Z

ACCOMMODATING THE COMMUNISTS SHOULD BE. PPD DEPUTY FIGUEIREDO DIAS TOLD EMBOFF THAT YOUNG PCP DEPUTY VITAL MOREIRA WAS FRUSTRATED AT BEING OVERRIDDEN BY PARTY ELDERS. ASSEMBLY SOURCES AND SOARES TOLD US THAT THE PCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE REJECTED CUNHAL'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE COMMUNISTS INTRODUCE A MOTION TO REJECT THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM.

8. THE QUESTION OF HOW ACTIVE A ROLE THE ASSEMBLY WILL PLAY IN LEGISLATING AND GOVERNING IS UNCLEAR. EARLY INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE ASSEMBLY WILL FOR THE MOST PART ACT IN RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTS RATHER THAN INITIATE MAJOR LEGISLATION.  
CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, COMMUNISTS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LISBON05646  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED PER 78 LISBON 1630  
**Executive Order:** X3  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760317-0729  
**From:** LISBON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760843/aaaabkzw.tel  
**Line Count:** 216  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 LISBON 5486  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC: THE FIRST SESSION  
**TAGS:** PINT, PO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006